(c) whether it is also a fact that this pharmaceutical policy strongly advocates revival of pharma PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The proposed National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 *inter-alia,* includes schemes for providing accessiblity of drugs to the poor especially the BPL families and strengthening of pharma PSUs.

Comments of various Departments/Ministries on the draft Policy have been received and the draft Policy is likely to be placed before the Cabinet for approval shortly. No specific time frame can be mentioned about finalization of the Policy.

Data exclusivity

1826. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government for consideration of data exclusivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government undertook any study on the impact of this proposal on domestic companies, particularly companies which are in production of drugs and other medicines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Government would consider to appoint a committee for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) An Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is looking into the steps to be taken by the Government in the context of the provisions of Article 39.3 of the TRIPS Agreement for the protection of undisclosed information in respect of agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals. The Committee has heard the views of most of the

stakeholders. However, because of divergent views, no final decision has been taken by the Committee.

Foodgrain procurement

1827 SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrain procurement has been too Iow this year;

(b) the actual item -wise production and procurement of foodgrains this year and the comparative figures thereof for the last three years;

(c) the reasons for low procurement; and

(d) whether this has not only led to rise in the prices but also hit the social sector programmes, like the New Food for Work Programmes (NFWP) and the Sampoorna grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The details of production and procurement of foodgrains in the last three years and the current year are given in the Statement (See below). As may be seen procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) in the current KMS 2006-07 (as on 7.8.2006) is higher than the procurement in the corresponding period last year.

However, the procurement of wheat has been lower than last year due to high ruling market prices, lower than the targeted production of wheat in crop year 2005-06, negative market sentiments, low market arrivals and more active participation by private traders.

(d) The increase in Wholesale Price Index of wheat as on 22.7.06 is 7.81 % compared to 3.95% in the corresponding period last year. The low procurement of wheat has not adversely affected any social sector programme.